

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A method of transferring an agent through the stratum corneum of a subject, comprising the steps of:

providing a microprotrusion member having one or more stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions;

placing said microprotrusion member proximate a skin site on the subject;

striking said microprotrusion member with an impact force, whereby said microprotrusion member imparts an energy on impact with the stratum corneum in the range of approximately 0.05 - 3 joules per cm² of said microprotrusion member in no greater than 10 milliseconds, and whereby at least one of said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions forms a microslit through the stratum corneum of the subject; and

transferring the agent through said microslit.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) A method of transferring an agent through the stratum corneum of a subject, comprising the steps of:

providing a microprotrusion member having one or more stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions;

striking said microprotrusion member with an impact force, whereby said microprotrusion member imparts an energy on impact with the stratum corneum in the range of approximately 0.1 - 0.3 joules per cm² of said microprotrusion member in the range of 1-10 milliseconds, and whereby at least one of said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions forms a microslit through the stratum corneum of the subject; and

transferring the agent through said microslit.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A method of transferring an agent through the stratum corneum of a subject, comprising the steps of:

providing a microprotrusion member having one or more stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions;

providing an impact applicator adapted to provide a first impact force;

placing said microprotrusion member proximate a skin site on the subject;

placing said impact applicator proximate said skin site in operational relationship with said microprotrusion member;

actuating said impact applicator to impart said first impact force to said microprotrusion member, whereby said microprotrusion member imparts an energy on

impact with the stratum corneum in the range of 0.1 – 0.3 joules per cm² of said microprotrusion member in a first period of time in the range of 1 – 10 milliseconds, and whereby at least one of said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions forms a microslit through the stratum corneum of the subject; and

transferring the agent through said microslit.

Claims 4-39 Canceled

Claim 40. (Previously Withdrawn) A method of delivering or sampling a biologically active agent through the stratum corneum, comprising:

providing a microprotrusion member having a plurality of stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions;

forming one or more microslits through the stratum corneum by causing said microprotrusions to impact the stratum corneum with a power of at least 0.05 joules per cm² of the microprotrusion member in 10 milliseconds or less; and

delivering or sampling the biologically active agent through said microslits.

Claim 41. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein said agent comprises a drug.

Claim 42. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein said agent comprises a vaccine.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein each of said plurality of stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions has a length less than 500 μm .

Claim 44. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein said agent is contained in a coating disposed on at least one of said plurality of stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions.

Claim 45. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 40, wherein said microprotrusions impact said stratum corneum with a power of at least 0.05 joules per cm^2 of said microprotrusion member in 1 millisecond or less.

Claim 46. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions have a length less than 500 μm .

Claim 47. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of a drug, vaccine, glucose and body analyte.

Claim 48. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions have a length less than 500 μm .

Claim 49. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of a drug, vaccine, glucose and body analyte.

Claim 50. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein said step of placing said impact applicator proximate said skin site comprises applying a hold down force to said skin site in the range of approximately 0.5 – 1 kg.

Claim 51. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein said stratum corneum-piercing microprotrusions have a length less than 500 μm .

Claim 52. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of a drug, vaccine, glucose and body analyte.